

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KUEHL AND
KNABE

March 3, 2015

Authorized by California Senate Bill 855, the Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) program was established to address the disparity of rates paid to relative caregivers for children ineligible for the federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) and those who are eligible.

State law now provides counties with the option to participate in the ARC program, providing non-federally eligible relatives with supplemental ARC payments. According to the latest guidance from the California Department of Social Services, counties have until June 30, 2015 to opt-in to the ARC program. However, for certain payments to be eligible retroactive to January 1, 2015, counties must opt-in before or during May 2015 and implement by June 1, 2015.

For children already receiving CalWORKs, the County may issue an ARC payment back to the date of the CalWORKs application, but no earlier than January 1, 2015. For children not already receiving CalWORKs, but who complete an ARC application and the County makes a CalWORKs determination, the County may claim back to the date of the ARC application.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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ANTONOVICH _____

Since enactment of the bill, the Los Angeles County Departments of Children and Family Services and Public Social Services have been working closely with State officials to determine how best to implement and administer the CalWORKS-based ARC program, with the goal of making the process as seamless as possible for relative caregivers.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services to send a letter to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to: (1) express our gratitude for State leadership and support of this important, long-overdue program, (2) opt-in to the ARC program by March 15, 2015, and, (3) inform CDSS that we are working to resolve outstanding implementation issues and participation in the program will commence at the earliest possible time, and no later than June 1, 2015 to ensure retroactivity for eligible program participants.

S: GC/Approved Relative Caregiver